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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 000419

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STATE FOR NEA/ARP, NEA/IR AND DRL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/18/2016

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [SOCI](#) [BA](#) [IR](#) [REGION](#)

SUBJECT: BAHRAIN: CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF AKBAR GANJI

REF: STATE 42097

Classified by DCM Susan L. Ziadeh for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

(C) Pol/Econ Chief March 18 delivered reftel demarche concerning a statement calling for the release of Iranian journalist and political prisoner Akbar Ganji to MFA Director for Bilateral Affairs Dhafer Al Umrani. Al Umrani was unaware of the issue and was grateful for the information on Ganji's case. He would not indicate whether the GOB would issue a public statement about Ganji.

MONROE